

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0137

S E C R E T JAKARTA 10983

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOF, ID

SUBJECT: GENERAL MOERDANI'S APPREHENSION CONCERNING
AMERICAN MILITARY AID

1. ON SEPTEMBER 5 MAJOR GENERAL BENNY MOERDANI, HANKAM J-1 RELATED TO EMBOFF HIS SERIOUS APPREHENSIONS CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON. MOERDANI NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY FROM AMBASSADOR NEWSOM VARIOUS INDICATIONS THAT THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE GOI SHOULD NOT BE SET TOO HIGH. MOERDANI CONTINUED THAT SHOULD THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE NEGOTIATORS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON WITHOUT HAVING OBTAINED A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR SHOPPING LIST (HE MENTIONED 70-80 PERCENT) THIS COULD CAUSE RATHER SEVERE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE GOI. THE FIRST AND MOST SERIOUS OF THESE WOULD BE THE LOSS OF FACE OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO WHO HAS REPEATEDLY ASSURED THE ARMED FORCES LEADERS THAT SUBSTANTIAL EQUIPMENT WOULD BE OBTAINED. IT IS PROBABLY PARTLY ON THIS BASIS THAT SUHARTO HAS RESTRAINED THE GENERALS ON THE PORTUGUESE TIMOR AFFAIR, ALTHOUGH MOERDANI DID NOT SPECIFICALLY LINK THE TWO CONSIDERATIONS.

2. FINALLY, MOERDANI RELATED THE EFFECT OF "FAILURE" ON HIMSELF SAYING THAT HE HAD IDENTIFIED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH THIS EFFORT TO OBTAIN AMERICAN SUPPORT.

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4. EMBOFF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED AT APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO

NOTE TO MOERDANI THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S PURPOSE HAS NOT BEEN TO DISCOURAGE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT RATHER TO CAST IT IN A REALISTIC LIGHT AND TO DAMPEN UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SYMPATHETIC TO INDONESIA'S MILITARY AND ECONOMIC NEEDS. WHAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS MERELY TRYING TO POINT OUT WAS THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND THE NATURE OF OUR OWN LIMITATIONS.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS TO CINCPAC.
NEWSOM

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NNN

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